D.O.No. Q-16019/6/2017-CPHEEO

October 29, 2018

Dear Sir,

As you are aware, visible progress has been made in processing of various fractions of municipal solid waste (MSW) after the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) on 2nd October 2014. However, the processing of non-recyclable combustible fraction of waste is still a major challenge for ULBs. Although, this fraction of waste possesses good calorific value, in absence of complete eco-system for processing, it is finding its way into landfills, creating problems like air pollution, fire hazards and public protests etc.

2. To overcome above said problems, Ministry constituted an Expert Committee under Dr. N. B. Mazumdar, Ex-Chief HUDCO, in October 2017, to explore its utilization as fuel in various industries. The committee has come out with comprehensive guidelines on the "Usage of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) in Various Industries" for promoting its co-processing. A gist including actionable points and copy of Guidelines is enclosed for your ready reference. The guidelines can also be accessed at www.swachhbharaturban.gov.in.

3. It is pertinent to mention here that against 60-70% of use of RDF in cement plants in countries like Netherlands, Austria and Germany, in India, the average thermal substitution rate (TSR) of RDF is less than 1%.

4. The guidelines cover various aspects of promoting the use of RDF in different industries. The recommendations cover, inter-alia, modifications in the existing MSW Rules 2016; standards for RDF; accepting RDF from the plants located within 400 Km by cement industry including bearing the cost of transportation upto 100 Km and also fixing the minimum and maximum rate of sale of RDF linked with calorific value. Industry can also use its CSR funds towards transportation of RDF beyond 100 km. Mapping of ULBs within 100 km and 200 km of cement plants along with various financial models for roll out are also provided in the guidelines. Incidentally, on World Environment Day on 5th June 2018, cement industry has committed to achieve 25% TSR by 2025, in the presence of Hon’ble Prime Minister, raising confidence for its substantial use in immediate future.
5. Therefore, I request you to take up urgent steps for implementations of these guidelines particularly by (i) making necessary arrangements/ setting up of RDF plants to make available requisite standard RDF to cement plants, (ii) entering in MoU with nearby cement plants as per model agreement provided in the guidelines. This initiative will not only make co-processing a viable scientific waste treatment option but will also go a long way in eliminating/ minimizing the requirements of waste-to-energy plants/ landfills/ various environmental compliances.

With regards,

Encl: As Above

Yours sincerely,

V. K. Jindal

(V.K. Jindal)

To

All Municipal Commissioners/ Chief Executive Officers of ULBs